

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic book system, comprising:

an electronic book, the electronic book including components of digital data that represent information;

a first component of actual text of the electronic book,

a second component, wherein the second component is a links menu to a plurality of additional components,

wherein the first component is configured such that clicking on the first component of actual text of the electronic book creates a link to the second component

~~and links between the components of the digital data, wherein when the links are activated, a first component is connected to a second component, wherein the second component is a links menu to a plurality of additional components.~~

2-18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a menu system, the menu system including:

a help menu, wherein the help menu provides instructions for using the menu system; and

a show links menu, wherein when selected, the show links menu displays a link type menu that includes audio clip links, graphics file links, definition links, language translation links, book order links, book review links, related discussion group links, pronunciation links, data base links, other book links, and book selection links.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein each component on a page of the electronic book may have one or more links to another component.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein a desired link type is selected by highlighting the desired link type from the links menu with a cursor and operating a select button, and wherein when the desired link type is selected, all corresponding linked components that exist on a page being displayed are highlighted.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the linked components are highlighted by displaying the linked components in a first color different from a second color for remaining information on the page.

23. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the linked components are displayed in a font different from a font used to display the page.

24. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the linked components are highlighted by displaying the linked components in one of a bold typeface, an italics typeface, and underlined.

25. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein a desired link is activated by selecting a desired highlighted component using a cursor and operating a select button.

26-29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) A method for linking electronic files to electronic books, comprising:

identifying a first selectable text element that is a section of the actual text in a first electronic book;

associating a first electronic file with the first selectable text element, wherein the associating step creates a first electronic link;

repeating the identifying and associating steps, the repeated steps creating electronic links;

activating the first electronic link by selecting the first selectable text element, the activating step causing the first electronic file to be displayed; and

providing a menu, wherein the menu includes a show links menu, and wherein the show links menu displays all available electronic links associated with a selected selectable text element in the first electronic link.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the electronic books are stored in an electronic book unit.

32. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein the electronic book unit, comprises:

a memory that stores the electronic books and selected electronic files;

a display that displays the electronic books and the electronic files;

a control unit adapted to receive commands from a user; and

a controller that controls operation of the electronic book unit and activation of the electronic links.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the first selectable text element is a location in an index of the first electronic book, wherein activation of the first link displays a page of the first electronic book associated with the location in the index.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the first selectable text element is a location in a table of contents of the first electronic book, and wherein activation of the first link displays a page of the first electronic book associated with the location in the table of contents.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the first selectable text element is one of a word and a phrase in the first electronic book, and wherein the first electronic file is a location in a dictionary that defines the word or phrase.

36. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein the electronic book unit includes an audio modules, wherein when the first link is activated, the audio unit provides an audio presentation giving a pronunciation of the word or phrase.

37. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein the dictionary is a foreign language dictionary, and wherein the electronic file is displayed in a foreign language.

38. (Original) The method of claim 37, wherein the electronic book unit activates a selected foreign language selection feature, and wherein the electronic book unit activates a selected foreign language dictionary based on an input from the foreign language selection feature.

39. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the electronic book unit is connected to a telecommunications network, and wherein the first electronic file is stored in a database in the telecommunications network.

40. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein the telecommunications network includes one of a telephone system, a cable television system, a wireless telephone system, a digital satellite television system, a fiber optic system, an Ethernet, and a wireless television system.

41. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein the database is a part of an Internet web site.

42. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein activating the first link provides access to the Internet web site.

43. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the first electronic is a second location in a second electronic book.

44. (Original) The method of claim 43, wherein the first and the second electronic books are stored in an electronic book unit.

45. (Canceled)

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein a desired electronic link is selected from the displayed available electronic links.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the show links menu displays available electronic link types for a displayed page in the first electronic book, and wherein when a desired electronic link type is selected, all available electronic links corresponding to the desired electronic link type are displayed on the page.

48. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the first electronic file is displayed in an overlay on a page of the first electronic link having the selected first location.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the first electronic file is displayed side by side with a page of the first electronic link having the selected first selectable text element.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the activating step comprises operating a pointing device and a cursor to highlight the first selectable text element and operating a select button to select the first selectable text element.

51. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the first electronic file is an audio presentation.

52. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the first electronic file is a video presentation.

53. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the first electronic file is a location where products can be ordered and purchased.

54. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the first electronic file is a location where books can be ordered and purchased.

55. (Original) The method of claim 54, wherein the books are electronic books.

56-79. (Canceled)

80. (Currently Amended) A method for providing an electronic book, comprising:
displaying a portion of the electronic book including a plurality of selection options, wherein each selection option is a piece of actual text in the electronic book;

in response to a selection of one of the selection options from a user, displaying a links menu including one or more links, wherein the one or more links provide access to additional content; and

in response to a selection of a link from the links menu from the user, retrieving additional content associated with the selected link and providing the additional content to the user.

81. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80, further comprising:

providing additional content that is internal to the electronic book.

82. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80, further comprising:

providing additional content that is external to the electronic book.

83. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80, wherein the additional content is audio content.

84. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80, wherein the additional content is audio-video content.

85. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80, wherein the additional content is text content.

86. (Currently Amended) A method for creating links, comprising:

receiving a selection of content associated with an electronic book from a user,
wherein the content is a piece of the actual text of the electronic book;

receiving a selection of additional content from the user; and
in response to a request from the user, creating a link between the selected
content associated with the electronic book and the selected additional content.

87. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 86, further comprising:

creating a links menu;
inserting the created link in the links menu.

88. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 86, wherein the created link provides
access from the selected content associated with the electronic book to the selected
additional content.

89. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 86, wherein the created link provides
access from the selected additional content to the selected content associated with the
electronic book.

90. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 86, wherein the created link is a two-
way link.

91. (Previously Presented) The electronic book system of claim 1, wherein the multiple
third components relate to the information represented by the first component.

92. (Currently Amended) An electronic book system, comprising:

an electronic book, the electronic book including components of digital data that represent information; and

links among the components of the digital data; wherein when the links are activated, a first component is linked to a second component; wherein the first component is located in the electronic book; and wherein the second component is located in a data repository at a distant [[an]] operations center.

93. (Currently Amended) An electronic book system, comprising:

an electronic book, the electronic book including components of digital data that represent information; and

links among the components of the digital data; wherein, when the links are activated, a first component is linked to a second component; wherein the first component is located in the electronic book; and wherein the second component is located in a distant data repository accessible by a server on a network.

94. (Previously Presented) An electronic book system according to claim 93, wherein the network is the Internet.

95. (Currently Amended) An electronic book system, comprising:

an electronic book, the electronic book including components of digital data that represent information; and

links among the components of the digital data; wherein when the links are activated, a first component is linked to a second component; wherein the first components is located in the electronic book; and wherein the second component is located in a distant data repository, the data repository including a list of available books related to the first component, wherein at least one of the books may be ordered for delivery.

96. (Previously Presented) The electronic book system of claim 95, wherein the electronic books are delivered by transmission via a telecommunications medium.

97. (Previously Presented) The electronic book system of claim 96, wherein the telecommunications medium is selected from a group consisting of a publicly switched telephone network, a cable television system, a wireless telephone system, a digital satellite system, a fiber optic system, an Ethernet network, and a wireless television system.

98. (Previously Presented) An electronic book system, comprising:

an electronic book, the electronic book including components of digital data that represent information; and

links among the components of the digital data; wherein, when the links are activated, a first component is linked to a second component; wherein the first component is located in the electronic book; and wherein the second component is an

network site including an address of one or more news groups related to the first component.

99. (Currently Amended) An electronic book distribution system, comprising:

a distant operation center, wherein the operation center is configured to store:

[[an]] a plurality of electronic books [[book]], the electronic books [[book]]

including components of digital data that represent information; and

a plurality of links corresponding to at least one of the plurality of electronic books, wherein a link links among a first and a second component of digital data of a corresponding electronic book; wherein when the links are activated, a first component is linked to a second component; and

wherein the operation center is configured to allow the selection and distribution of the links separate from the electronic book to which it corresponds
~~the electronic book is delivered by transmission via a telecommunications medium.~~

100. (Previously Presented) The electronic book system of claim 99, wherein the links are purchasable separately from the electronic book.

101. (Previously Presented) The electronic book system of claim 99, wherein the links are transmitted separately from delivery of the electronic book.

102. (Previously Presented) The electronic book system of claim 1, wherein the first component is located in the electronic book data; and wherein the second

component is located at a location where electronic books are orderable and purchasable.

103. (Currently Amended) A method for using electronic links in an electronic book system, the electronic book system including an electronic book displayable on a display, the method comprising:

displaying a linked first component as a piece of actual text of the electronic book;

selecting the linked first component; and

displaying a second component linked to the first component, wherein the second component is a links menu to at least a third component.

104. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 103, wherein a third component is selectable via the links menu, and wherein selecting the third component displays the third component, the third component being related to the first component of the electronic book.

105. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 103, wherein the second component is located in a data repository at an operations center.

106. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 103, wherein the second component is located in a data repository accessible by a server on a network.

107. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 106, wherein the network is the Internet.

108. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 103, wherein the second component is a network site including an address of one or more news groups related to the first component.

109. (Currently Amended) A method for using electronic links in an electronic book system, the electronic book system including an electronic book displayable on a display, the method comprising:

displaying a linked first component of the electronic book, wherein the first component is a piece of the actual text of the electronic book;

selecting the first component; and

displaying a second component linked to the first component, wherein the second component is selected from the group consisting of a product catalog, and a service catalog, and wherein a product and a service may be purchased via each of the product catalog and the service catalog.

110. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 109, wherein the product catalog is an electronic book catalog.

111. (Previously Presented) A method for using electronic links in an electronic book system, the electronic book system including an electronic book displayable on a display, the method comprising:

displaying a linked first component of the electronic book;

selecting the first component; and

displaying a second component linked to the first component; wherein

links linking the first and the second components are refreshed by data provided by an external facility.

112. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 111, wherein the external facility is one of an operations center and a network site.